

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



1942  
A2-F22

Farm Business Facts

A radio discussion between Wallace Kadderly, Radio Service, and E. J. "Mike" Rowell, of the Agricultural Marketing Service, presented during the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Monday, April 15, 1940.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

--ooOoo--

KADDERLY:

(ad lib introduction, calling attention to frosts, April 10, 11, and 12, particularly on the 11th and 12th -- as far south as San Antonio, Texas, across to the Gulf of Mexico and through parts of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama, and into southern Georgia. Information on extent of damage gathered by Agricultural Marketing Service. E. J. Mike Rowell will report that information --- by commodities.)

ROWELL:

Starting with green beans. -- Seems like southern growers just can't get many green beans to maturity. Probably 40 percent damage to the crop in Louisiana, with rail shipments delayed about 2 weeks. In Alabama, practically all beans that were up were killed but are already being replanted. In Mississippi all that were up were killed, and most of the acreage will be replanted. Shipments delayed 2 to 3 weeks.

Cucumbers. Practically all the cukes that were up in Alabama were killed, but are being replanted. South Carolina reported vines badly damaged in northern counties.

Peppers. Louisiana peppers probably damaged considerably, and in that State there is a shortage of plants for resetting.

Potatoes. In Texas tops were nipped around San Antonio and probably to the northward too. We have very meager information from Oklahoma and Arkansas, but probably most of the potatoes were up and we do know that everything up was cut back to the ground. The Louisiana potato crop was set back about 2 weeks in central and northern part of the State. In Alabama growers are guessing their damage might run up to as much as 30 percent. In South Carolina potatoes were badly damaged in the northern counties. In Mississippi potato plants were frozen back to the ground and the crop will be delayed 2 weeks.

Strawberries. Louisiana lost 2 or 3 day's blooms but very little damage to fruit and shipments will be heavy this week. This will affect shipments for a few days later in the season, but the State is right at its peak of shipments now. Alabama lost a lot of blooms, and the crop is set back. Blooms and some young fruit killed. In Tennessee, spotted damage to strawberries running up to possibly 30 percent.

On peas. Probably considerable damage in Mississippi. Doubtful if any peas will be available from that State before May.

(over)

Watermelons, were up in southern Alabama, and all killed, but will be replanted. In Mississippi practically all early watermelon plantings killed and will have to be replanted, delaying the crop 10 days to 2 weeks.

Peaches. Were in full bloom in a good many parts of the Southeast, and Southcentral States during last week's cold wave, but it's too early for definite indications as to full extent of loss. The bloom was unusually heavy in most sections of these States, however, and it seems likely that in at least some instances frost damage to blossoms and young fruit will amount to little more than a good thinning. Considerable damage to peaches in North Carolina. In the important Spartansburg area of South Carolina considerable damage to blossoms and fruit occurred, but the set of fruit was unusually heavy and a good crop is still in prospect in that area. In other parts of South Carolina damage was relatively heavy.

In Georgia damage to peach crop was somewhat variable. Considerable damage to Hiley's was reported in the Fort Valley area, but a fair to good peach crop is expected in that section. Damage was rather severe in the Thomaston area, especially to Hileys and Elbertas. Heavy losses were reported from Cornelia.

In Tennessee, peaches were damaged extensively by low temperatures at the end of March and further injury occurred in the cold wave of last week. The peach crop is reported to be nearly a complete failure in many orchards in Tennessee.

Considerable damage to peaches reported in Alabama, but it is too early to appraise the extent of loss.

In Oklahoma considerable damage occurred early in the season, especially in the northern part of the State. Further injury is reported from low temperatures of last week, but the bloom was heavy and for most sections an average crop is still in prospect.

Tomatoes. In Mississippi practically all plants had been transplanted to the fields. 1/2 to 2/3 of the acreage was covered but of this acreage frosts damaged from 15 to 25 percent. On the uncovered acreage in the State 50 percent of the plants were killed. The State has sufficient plants available to reset the lost acreage, but the crop will be delayed 10 days to 2 weeks.

KADDERLY:

(ad lib conclusion to foregoing report) Now, Mike, I believe you have something to tell us about the early lamb crop.

ROWELL:

Yes, I do, Wallace. Early lambs made much better growth during March of this year than they did a year ago. In California lambs are in exceptionally good condition and probably most of the shipments from that State will be made between the 20th of this month and the middle of May.

Arizona lambs are developing rapidly.

Conditions in Texas during March and so far this month have been favorable for the growth of lambs. Some Texas lambs were shipped in March, but they were rather medium in quality, and heavy shipments won't get under way until late this month and next.

In the Corn Belt, particularly in Missouri, death losses this spring have been heavy. The percentage of lambs saved, to the number of ewes in that State, was the smallest ever reported.

In the Southeast, death losses were heavy also, and condition of the crop was way below average.

In Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia, death losses this year have been larger than usual.

In the Northwest, weather and feed conditions have been favorable, and the lambs have made good growth. In some parts of Oregon the crop is a full month ahead of normal. These lambs will move to market late next month and in June.

